



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Biscayne National Park
9700 S. W. 328th Street
Homestead, Florida 33033-5634



Superintendent's Compendium

Compendium of Designations, Closures,
Request Requirements and Other Restrictions
imposed under the discretionary authority
of the Superintendent.

Approved:

Linda Canzanelli, Superintendent

December 10, 2004

Date

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter I, Parts 1 through 7, authorized by Title 16, United States Code, Section 3, the following regulatory provisions are established for the proper management, protection, government and public use of the portion of Biscayne National Park under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. These discretionary regulations are in addition to the other regulations published in Title 36 CFR, Chapter I, and Parts 2 through 7. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1.

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Closures and public use limits (36 CFR 1.5)

1. CLOSED AREAS

Question: Are there any areas within Biscayne National Park closed year round to all public entry?

Answer: Yes, the following areas are closed year round:

- A. Arsenicker Key
- B. West Arsenicker Key
- C. Within 200' of both Arsenicker and West Arsenicker Keys
- D. Soldier's Key
- E. The rocky area past the jetty known as the bird observation area
- F. Sands Key is closed to all public entry, except for the following: The established path between the keyhole and the ocean side of the island and the beach portions on the East Side of the island.

Question: Why?

Answer: These areas are closed to all public entry for the protection of wildlife and critical sensitive resources.

2. VISITING HOURS

Question: Are there any schedules of visiting hours in any areas?

Answer: Yes, these are the areas and times:

- A. The public use area of Biscayne National Park on the mainland tract known as Convoy Point is closed to all visitor use from 5:30 p.m. until 7:00 am seven days a week, 365 days of the year, except when a special use permit exists and/or an approved operation and/or event by the concessionaire. The administrative/headquarters area is closed to public recreational use every day of the year.

Question: Why?

Answer: Visitor services are not available at Convoy Point during these hours.

- B. Unless otherwise authorized or because of emergency circumstances, the docks at Adams Key in Caesar Creek are closed to any mooring or docking of non NPS vessels from sunset to sunrise. Adams Key developed area is closed to public use during these hours as well.

Question: Why?

Answer: Adams key is not an authorized overnight camping area since there is little available dockage space for any vessel. Also the vessels tied to the dock could be thrown into the concrete and wood structure by wakes from other vessels traveling through Caesar's Creek.

- C. Unless otherwise authorized or because of emergency circumstances, University Dock in Elliott Key is closed to any mooring or docking of non NPS vessels from sunset to sunrise.

Question: Why?

Answer: University dock does not lead to any developed areas at Elliott Key.

- D. The gravel roads adjacent to Mowry Canal on both the Northern and Southern banks are closed to all public use from sunset to sunrise.

Question: Why?

Answer: The gravel roads adjacent to Mowry Canal is undeveloped, does not have guardrails separating the road from the water, is unlit and is dangerous for visitors to drive there after dark.

3. CLOSED DOCKING, BEACHING, ANCHORING, LAUNCHING AND MOORING AREAS

Question: Are there any areas closed to all docking, beaching, anchoring, launching, mooring or other use by private vessels?

Answer: Yes, the following areas are closed unless otherwise authorized by a law enforcement ranger or because of an emergency situation where life and/or property are in jeopardy.

A. No docking areas include the following:

- The maintenance work dock at Elliott Key (except for visitor fishing while on the actual dock not in a vessel moored to the dock).
- The marked “no docking”/”reserved park staff” boat slips and the marked “no docking” bulkhead in Elliott Key harbor.
- The marked “no docking”/”reserved park staff” marked bulkhead area at Boca Chita key.
- The National Park Service boat basin and boat ramp at Convoy Point.
- The Northern side of Adams Key dock as well as the wood small dock North of the main concrete dock.
- The concrete wall on the West side of Soldier Key.

B. No beaching areas include the following:

- Any shore areas of Soldier Key.
- Any shore areas of Boca Chita Key.
- Any shore areas on the western side of Elliott Key.

C. No anchoring areas include the following:

- Within Boca Chita Key Harbor.
- Within Elliott Key Harbor.
- Within the slow speed zone marked by buoys at the mouth of Boca Chita harbor.
- The triangular shaped area, determine by connecting lines between U.S. Coast Guard navigational day marker #7 and #13 in Hawk Channel and Triumph Reef Light known as the legare anchorage.
- Within the slow speed zone marked by buoys at the mouth of Elliott Key harbor.
- Within any marked navigational channel.

D. No public launching areas include the following:

- The ramp at Convoy Point.

E. Public mooring restrictions are as followed:

- No more than one other vessel may raft to a vessel tied to /docked at the cleated bulkhead at Boca Chita. This does not preclude the rafting of a vessel's tender alongside in addition to the allowable one additional vessel. A vessel tender is described as any vessel fourteen (14' 00") feet or less. Any tender larger than fourteen feet (14' 00") will be counted as the additional allowable vessel.
- Vessels are only permitted to moor parallel to the bulkhead at Boca Chita Key.

Question: Why?

Answer: These restrictions are set in place for the protection and safety of visitors at Biscayne as well as for the protection of the resource.

4. SWIMMING, DIVING AND SNORKELING RESTRICTIONS

Question: Are there any areas where swimming, snorkeling and/or diving is not allowed?

Answer: Yes, these are the following areas:

A. No swimming areas include:

1. The triangular shaped area, determine by connecting lines between U.S. Coast Guard navigational day marker #7 and #13 in Hawk Channel and Triumph Reef Light known as the legare anchorage.
2. Within Boca Chita harbor.
3. Within Elliott Key harbor.
4. Within Convoy Point harbor.
5. Within the slow speed zone at the mouth of Boca Chita Key harbor.
6. Within the slow speed zone at the mouth of Elliott Key harbor.
7. Within or near by 100' of all marked channels (aids to navigational markers).

B. No snorkeling and/or diving areas include the following:

1. The triangular shaped area, determine by connecting lines between U.S. Coast Guard navigational day marker #7 and #13 in Hawk Channel and Triumph Reef Light known as the legare anchorage.
2. Within Boca Chita harbor.
3. Within Elliott Key harbor.
4. Within Convoy Point harbor.
5. Within the slow speed zone at the mouth of Boca Chita Key harbor.
6. Within the slow speed zone at the mouth of Elliott Key harbor.
7. Within or near by 100' of all marked channels (aids to navigational markers).

Question: Why?

Answer: These areas are restricted for the protection of the visitors.

5. VESSEL SLOW SPEED ZONES

Question: Are there any slow speed/minimum wake areas within Biscayne National Park besides those established by the United States Coast Guard and/or the state of Florida (i.e. harbor and marina entry/exit channels/manatee zones)?

Answer: Yes, the following zones and/or areas are slow speed/minimum wake:

- A. Within the area marked by buoys at the mouth of Boca Chita harbor as well as within the harbor.
- B. Within the area marked by buoys at the mouth of Elliott Key harbor as well as within the harbor.
- C. The area marked by slow speed/minimum wake zone buoys from the southwestern tip of Sands Key towards just South of Elliott Key harbor, South of the maintenance dock and through the western edge of Sands Cut. The zone covers the entire area from the western shore of Elliott Key to the buoys.
- D. East featherbed cut between markers Red 4, Red 2 and Green 3.
- E. In between Red 22, Red 20 and Green 21 within Caesar's Creek in the immediate are just South of Adams Key dock and North of Caesar's Rock island.

Question: Why?

Answer: These slow speed restrictions are established for the protection of the visitors and resources, (more specifically to avoid or limit vessel accidents and to minimize visitor use conflicts.

6. CLOSED FISHING AREAS AND/OR ZONES

Question: Are there any areas and/or zones closed to fishing within Biscayne National Park?

Answer: Yes, the following areas and/or zones are closed to fishing year round:

- A. Within the area marked by buoys at the mouth of Boca Chita Key harbor as well as within the harbor.
- B. Within the area marked by buoys at the mouth of Elliott Key harbor as well as within the harbor. The only exception is that fishing from the maintenance dock just South of the main harbor is permitted.
- C. The area within the buoyed swim area at Elliott Key harbor (hereby designated as within the limits of a swimming beach).
- D. The bulkheads and finger piers within the National Park Service boat basin at Park Headquarters. Convoy Point (hereby designated as within the limits of a boat dock).
- E. The entrance/main road at Convoy Point.
- F. The northern side of Adams Key dock (fishing in the harbor).

Question: Why?

Answer: These restrictions are set in place to limit the possibility of a visitor being injured by fishing line as well as to limit the possibility of fishing line getting caught in a vessel's propellers.

7. CLOSED AREAS AND/OR ZONES FOR PETS

Question: Are there any areas and/or zones within Biscayne National Park that are closed to pets?

Answer: Yes, except when the pet is used to aid individuals with disabilities, the following zones and/or areas are closed to pets:

- A. On any parklands, except the developed areas at Convoy Point, Elliott Key and Adams Key.
- B. On vessels docked, tied, moored or otherwise attached to parklands or facilities, except in Convoy Point, Elliott Key and Adams Key harbors.

Question: Why?

Answer: Restrictions to where pets can be allowed are set in place for the protection of the resource.

8. ACTIVITY RESTRICTIONS

Question: Are there any restrictions on certain activities within Biscayne National Park?

Answer: Yes, the following restrictions or activities are established:

- A. Within the Legare Anchorage which is the triangular shaped area, determined by connecting lines between U. S. Coast Guard navigational day marker #7 and #13 in Hawk Channel and the Triumph Reef Light, the use of any underwater viewing device including but not limited to, face masks, glass bottom boats, glass bottom buckets and/or cameras. However, the areas within a 200-yard radius around Bache Shoal Light and Triumph Reef Light are not included in this restrictions closure.
- B. Jones Lagoon is closed to all motorized vessels.
- C. The harvest of land crabs is prohibited on paved surfaces. On none paved surfaces, State of Florida regulations must be followed. The harvest of invertebrates is prohibited, except for those species for which the State of Florida has established harvest regulations. Examples of harvestable invertebrates are Blue Crabs, Lobster and Shrimp.
- D. The use of generators or engines (other than for entering or exiting the harbor on vessels) is prohibited between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. when the noise produced by these generators affect the enjoyment or other visitors nearby.
- E. Vehicle parking on the shoulders of the entrance/main road at Convoy Point is prohibited.
- F. Any type of commercial bus will not be left with its engine running within the parking lots at Convoy Point for more than five minutes.
- G. The administrative/headquarters area is closed to public recreational use every day of the year.
- H. Other than on paved roads, bicycles are only allowed to be used on the breeze way and spite highway area of Elliott Key. The use of bicycles in any other non-developed, non-paved (road) areas is prohibited. (A violation of this section is found under 36 CFR 4.30).

Question: Why?

Answer: These activity restrictions are set in place for the protection of the resource, the protection of the visitors from getting injured as well as ensuring visitor enjoyment of the park.

Preservation of natural, cultural and archeological resources (36 CFR 2.1)

9. LIMITS AND RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO POSSESSION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Question: Are there any limits and/or restrictions regarding the possession of natural resources besides those established by law within Biscayne National Park?

Answer: Yes, the restrictions are the following:

- A. Dead and down wood, including driftwood may be collected only from the immediate vicinity of the Elliott Key and Boca Chita campgrounds as well as the developed areas of Adams Key. Driftwood may also be collected from the shorelines of Elliott, Boca Chita and Adams Key. (36 CFR 2.1 (a) (4) prohibits using or possessing wood gathered from within the park area: *Provided however*, that the superintendent may designate areas where dead wood on the ground may be collected for use as fuel for campfires within the park area.
- B. Collection of ripe coconuts found on the ground is permitted. Unripe coconuts still on the trees may not be collected or disturbed. (36 CFR 2.1 (c) (1) authorized the superintendent to designate certain fruits, berries, nuts or unoccupied seashells which may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption upon a written determination that the gathering or consumption will not adversely affect park wildlife, the reproductive potential of a plant species or otherwise adversely affect park resources.

Question: Why?

Answer: These restrictions are set in place for the protection of the resource.

Camping and food storage (36 CFR 2.10)

10. RESTRICTIONS ON CAMPING AND FOOD STORAGE

Question: Are there any restrictions related to camping and/or food storage within Biscayne National Park?

Answer: Yes, the following restrictions apply:

- A. A Special Use Permit, issued by the superintendent, is required to camp or moor a vessel for more than 14 consecutive days or more than 30 days within a calendar year. A violation of this can be found under 36 CFR 2.10 (b) (9).
- B. Camping is permitted in the group sites on Elliott Key and Boca Chita Key on a first come, first served basis unless the site(s) have been reserved throughout the issuance of a Special Use Permit. A violation of this can be found under 36 CFR 2.10 (b) (9).
- C. Camping is only permitted in Elliott Key Harbor campground and Boca Chita Key harbor campground and is restricted to the areas designated on the map available from the superintendent, posted on those bulletin boards on those islands or available at the Convoy Point Visitor Center. Camping is also allowed within 25' of any structures and in addition at Elliott Key, within the clearing immediately North of the Visitor Center. At Boca Chita, camping is not allowed within the clearing North of the barn structure. All camping is on a "first come, first served" basis. A violation of this can be found under 36 CFR 2.10 (b) (9).
- D. All food, lawfully taken fish, garbage and equipment used to cook and store food, must be kept inside a closed, secure compartment aboard a vessel, within a motor vehicle or within

a latched container constructed of solid, non pliable material. This restriction does not apply to food that is being transported, prepared, consumed or aboard vessels at anchor or under way. All food, lawfully taken fish and garbage must be attended at all times when it is not stored in the above manner. A violation of this can be found under 36 CFR 2.10 (d).

Question: Why?

Answer: These restrictions are set in place for the protection of the resource as well as the protection of the visitors and their belongings. Two of the zones mentioned above are helicopter landing areas in case of emergencies. Visitors camping there would prohibit the helicopter from landing.

Fires (36 CFR 2.13)

11. PERMITTED FIRE AREAS

Question: Are there any areas and/or zones where fires may be lighted and/or maintained within Biscayne National Park?

Answer: Yes, the only areas, zones and/or places where fires may be lighted and/or maintained are the following:

- A. Fires are permitted only in government provided and maintained grills or other grills designed for this purpose. Such fires are permitted only in the developed areas (campgrounds/picnic areas) at Convoy Point headquarters area, Adams Key, Elliott Key and Boca Chita Key. The government provided grills may not be moved. Personal grills may not be placed on the boardwalk, dock, picnic tables, under structures or any location where their heat may cause damage to structures or natural features. A violation of this can be found under 36 CFR 2.13 (a) (1).
- B. Ground fires are prohibited in all areas of the park except in the established fire rings at the Elliott Key group campsite and at Adams Key. A violation of this can be found under 36 CFR 2.13 (a) (1)
- C. Any other burning will strictly adhere to policies identified in the approved fire management plan for Biscayne National Park.

Question: Why:

Answer: These fire restrictions are set in place in order to limit the possibility of a wildland fire occurring as well as for the protection of the structures near the recreational areas and for the protection of the visitors.

Vehicle speed limits (36 CFR 4.21)

13. ESTABLISHED SPEED LIMITS

Question: On the paved roads of Biscayne National Park (Convoy Point area) are there any established speed limits?

Answer: Yes, the speed limits are the following:

- A. The speed limit in Biscayne National Park is fifteen miles per hour (15 mph), except on the straight section of the main park/entrance road. In this stretch of road the speed limit is thirty miles per hour (30 mph).
- B. On the non-paved roads, East of canal L-31 as well as the non-paved dirt roads East of the flood gates on both North and South banks of Mowry canal, the speed limit is also thirty miles per hour (30 mph).

Question: Why?

Answer: These speed restrictions are set in place for the protection of the visitors as well as the resource. They are also set in place to limit vehicular accidents from occurring.